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Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

During the period under review, the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa convened its sixteenth and seventeenth ministerial meetings; organized the Subregional Conference on the Protection of Women and Children in Armed Conflict in Central Africa and a meeting of Chiefs of Staff of the member States of the Committee; and co-organized with the United Nations Development Fund for Women a regional consultation on the theme "Parity and development: participation of the Central African woman". The Committee, which was established in May 1992, also commemorated the tenth anniversary of its creation. Through its Bureau, it continued to monitor political and security developments in its region.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/25 A, entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa", the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed its support for efforts to promote confidence-building measures in order to ease tensions and conflicts and further peace, stability and sustainable development in Central Africa. It also reaffirmed its support for the programme of work of the Committee adopted at its organizational meeting held in Yaoundé from 27 to 31 July 1992 (see A/47/511).

2. By the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the States members of the Committee with the necessary support for the implementation and smooth functioning of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX) created by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the early-warning mechanism. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the States members of the Committee with assistance to ensure that they are able to carry out their efforts, and requested him to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

3. The present report has been prepared in response to that request. It covers the activities undertaken by the United Nations and the Committee since the submission of the previous report (A/56/285).

II. Action by the United Nations

4. During the reporting period, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, which serves as the secretariat of the Committee, continued to provide it with advisory, substantive and technical support. It also continued to cooperate and collaborate with the ECCAS secretariat on matters of mutual interest to the Committee, in particular on questions related to peace and security. Through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Department has also provided technical support to the national commissions on small arms of some of the States members of the Committee.

III. Meetings of the Committee

5. At its sixteenth ministerial meeting, held from 13 to 17 August 2001 in Kinshasa (see A/56/378-S/2001/890), while reviewing the geopolitical and security situation in its respective member States, the Committee expressed concern at the continuing conflict in Angola and expressed its support for the efforts of the Government of Angola to restore peace, security and stability throughout the territory and to ensure the protection of the civilian population. It called on the international community to assist the displaced persons and invited the União Nacional para a Independencia Total de Angola (UNITA) to renounce the pursuit of war and instead promote national reconciliation and peace for the benefit of all Angolans under the terms of the Lusaka Protocol.

6. With regard to the situation in Burundi, the Committee expressed deep concern at the heightened insecurity in that country, in particular the continuation and escalation of the violence being perpetrated against the civilian population by armed groups based in some neighbouring countries. It welcomed the signing of the agreement on a transitional government, and expressed its support for the efforts of the Burundian Government and all Burundians to bring about lasting peace in their country. In addition, it invited the countries of the Central African subregion, particularly those of the Great Lakes Region, to help Burundians to restore peace through dialogue and reconciliation and to refrain from providing any direct or indirect assistance to the rebels.

7. Regarding Cameroon, the Committee welcomed the Government's pursuit of a policy of dialogue through the establishment of a consensus-based democracy that would permit harmonious development in the country. Concerning the situation in the Congo, the Committee welcomed the efforts made by the Congolese Government to promote national reconciliation in that country, in particular the holding in Brazzaville, from March to April 2001, of the all-embracing national dialogue in which all segments of society participated. As to the situations in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe, the Committee noted with appreciation the climate of peace and stability that existed in those countries.

8. While expressing grave concern at the attempted coup of May 2001, the Committee noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the Central African

Government to fight insecurity and to continue the process of disarmament and the restructuring of the armed forces. With regard to Chad, it expressed concern at the continued armed attacks by the opposition, and encouraged the Chadian authorities to continue pursuing their policy of dialogue and openness towards the opposition in order to bring about national reconciliation among all Chadians. The Committee expressed grave concern at the continued systematic plunder and unlawful exploitation of natural resources and other riches in the occupied part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and demanded the immediate cessation of those practices. It also expressed deep concern at the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in that country, as well as the massive violation of human rights and international humanitarian law being perpetrated in the occupied territories. It urgently appealed to the Security Council to move rapidly with the implementation of phase III of the deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

9. The Subregional Conference on the Protection of Women and Children in Armed Conflict in Central Africa, which was held in Kinshasa from 14 to 16 November 2001 (see A/56/680-S/2001/1155), brought together senior government officials and representatives of civil society from the States members of the Committee, as well as representatives of United Nations agencies, donor countries and international organizations. It offered an opportunity for an in-depth, open and direct exchange of views on the extent, implications and consequences of armed conflict, in particular on women and children in Central Africa and society in general. At the same time, it drew the attention of the international community to the plight of the victims of the ongoing armed conflicts in Central Africa. It was seen as an opportunity for the Central African States to develop a plan of action that would assist them to effectively address that problem. Accordingly, the Conference adopted a plan of action that contained a number of recommendations to be implemented at the national, subregional and international levels.

10. The Conference's themes included (a) an analysis of recent or ongoing armed conflicts in central Africa and their impact on women and children; (b) the legal framework and international efforts to protect women and children in situations of armed conflict; (c) the role of women and children in conflicts and peace efforts in central Africa; (d) problems specific to women in armed conflict; and (e) problems specific to children in armed conflict.

11. Participants deplored the proliferation of armed conflicts in the central African region and the disastrous impact they had on the welfare and economic development of the people of central Africa. They identified civil wars and wars of aggression as the two main types of conflicts engulfing the subregion, while struggles for power and control of resources, poor governance, economic interests, ethnic and/or political intolerance, the refusal to abide by democratic principles, poverty, underdevelopment, overpopulation actions of foreign powers and multinational corporations were identified as the causes of those incessant conflicts.

12. After nearly four years of constant postponements, the meeting of Chiefs of Staff of the member States of the Committee was finally held in Libreville from 18 to 20 March 2002. The meeting, whose objective was to reduce the global costs of organizing joint military simulation exercises for peacekeeping operations in the central African region, was a follow-up to a similar meeting held in Libreville on 14 and 15 May 1998. That meeting, which had been called for at a meeting of Defence Ministers of the Member States of the Committee, held in Libreville from 28 to 30 April 1998, had been tasked with considering the practical modalities and determining the global costs of conducting such exercises.

13. Accordingly, at their May 1998 meeting, the Chiefs of Staff had developed a plan and timetable for conducting the exercises. The global costs for the exercises, which had been supposed to involve a total of 1,484 men from the six member States represented at that meeting and to last for a duration of 10 days, had been estimated at 2 billion CFA francs. Those findings had been presented to the tenth ministerial meeting of the Committee, held in Yaoundé from 26 to 30 October 1998. Taking into account the sizeable amount of resources required for organizing the exercises and the fact that member States were not in a position to raise the necessary resources, the ministers had called for another meeting of Chiefs of Staff and tasked it with: (a) reviewing the practical modalities of the "Biyongho 98" military exercises; (b) revising the costs of the exercises downwards; and (c) determining the distribution of the cost among member States of the Committee.

14. At the conclusion of their March 2002 meeting, the Chiefs of Staff reaffirmed the necessity of organizing the military exercises and agreed on the following: (a) the exercises, whose title was changed to Biyongho 2003, should be organized at the level of section/platoon per country to be preceded by an officers' exercise (i.e., nine platoons = three companies = one battalion), at a total cost of nearly 800 million CFA francs (a little above US$ 850,000 or 980,000 euros); (b) the exercises should be held in Gabon in June 2003 and should be called Biyongho 2003; (c) a planning committee should be established, consisting of two participants per country; (d) the planning committee should meet in Libreville in September 2002 and February 2003; and (e) the exercises should be held in June 2003.

15. As far as the distribution of the costs of the exercises was concerned, given the political nature of the issue the Chiefs of Staff were unable to determine each country's share and therefore decided to revert the issue to the ministers for consideration at the seventeenth ministerial meeting. The Chiefs of Staff, however, recommended that the ministers approach their respective Governments and request that funding for the exercises be included in their 2003 budgets. Accordingly, at its seventeenth ministerial meeting, the Committee agreed on the distribution of the costs and member States committed themselves to approaching their respective Governments on the matter, as recommended by the Chiefs of Staff.

16. At its seventeenth ministerial meeting, held in Kinshasa from 22 to 26 April 2002 (see A/57/79-S/2002/551), the Committee had before it two working documents prepared by its secretariat, one on the geopolitical and security situation in central Africa and the other on the review of recommendations and decisions adopted by the Committee from 1992 to 2001. The objective of the latter was to enable the Committee to reflect on its previous recommendations and decisions with a view to determining what had been done, what remained to be done and obstacles towards the realization of the remaining recommendations and decisions.

17. On the geopolitical and security situation in the central African region, while bemoaning continued political strife and persistent armed conflicts that afflicted most of the central African States, the Committee welcomed the recent ceasefire agreement between the Angolan Government and the UNITA rebels; the installation in Burundi, in November 2001, of a transitional government of national unity; and the holding of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, which although not producing the desired results nevertheless permitted the Congolese people to sit together and try to find a peaceful solution to the problem that had nearly disintegrated their country.

18. With regard to the review of recommendations and decisions adopted by the Committee from 1992 to 2000, the Committee decried the fact that apart from the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, which had since become operational under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, none of its other mechanisms were functional. It called upon member States to ratify the instruments creating COPAX and to strengthen the capacity of ECCAS so as to enable it to respond to the needs of the region. It also called upon all member States of the Committee to create national commissions that would follow up on the recommendations and decisions adopted by the Committee.

19. In addition, it considered the reports of the Subregional Conference on the Protection of Women and Children in Armed Conflict in Central Africa and the meeting of Chiefs of Staff. In commemoration of the tenth anniversary of its creation, the Committee adopted the Kinshasa Declaration, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed its commitment to the objectives of its creation as well as to revitalizing and to strengthening the capacity of ECCAS, in particular in the areas of peace and security in the central African region.

20. At the conclusion of its work, the Committee adopted a number of special recommendations, inter alia, that: (a) ECCAS, with the assistance of the secretariat of the Committee, organize a subregional workshop on the implementation, by States members of the Committee and ECCAS, of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; (b) the Committee, at its eighteenth ministerial meeting, invite the Department of Disarmament Affairs to brief the Committee on the objectives of the United Nations Register on Conventional Arms and the United Nations standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures with a view to encouraging States

members of the Committee to participate in those instruments.

21. The Committee also co-organized with the United Nations Development Fund for Women a regional consultation on the theme "Parity and development: participation of the Central African woman". The consultation, whose primary objective was to elaborate a two-year plan of action that would respond to the various concerns and needs of Central African women in the areas of peace and development, was held in Douala, Cameroon, from 28 to 30 May 2002. Participants included government representatives and representatives of civil society from member States of the Committee. Based on issues of major concern to the Central African women, the themes of the consultation included (a) the feminization of poverty and new technologies; (b) peace and security: the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); (c) human rights and the fight against HIV/AIDS; (d) good governance and the participation of women in decision-making; and (e) social mobilization.

22. In the area of peace and security, participants identified the following: (a) lack of respect for national and international legal instruments which has resulted in endless conflicts; (b) marginalization of women; and (c) the proliferation and circulation of illicit small arms and light weapons as the three major problems contributing to the insecurity in the Central African region. In order to improve the peace and security situation in the region, they agreed on the need to increase the participation of women in conflict prevention, management, resolution and maintenance of peace.

IV. Programme of activities for 2001-2002

23. It is expected that the full programme of activities for the 2002-2003 period will be elaborated at the eighteenth ministerial meeting, to be held in Bangui from 26 to 30 August 2002.

V. Administrative and financial matters

24. During the period under review, the General Assembly continued to provide funding from the regular budget for the two ministerial meetings, while the Subregional Conference on the Protection of Women and Children in Armed Conflict in Central Africa, the meeting of Chiefs of Staff of the member States of the Committee and the regional consultation on the theme "Parity and development: participation of the Central African woman" were financed from the Trust Fund of the Committee. The Trust Fund, which relies on voluntary contributions from Members States, governmental and non-governmental organizations and private individuals, did not receive any contributions during the reporting period. The Secretary-General wishes to appeal to Member States and the international community as a whole to contribute generously to the Trust Fund so as to facilitate the effective implementation of the programme of work of the Committee.

VI. Conclusions and observations

25. **The Committee continues to play a vital role in promoting peace and security in the Central African region. It continues to serve as a forum for regular consultation and exchange of information and suggestions among the member States of ECCAS concerning confidence-building measures that could enhance peace and security in the Central African region, and its States members attach a great value to the continued existence of the Committee.**

26. **Since the establishment of the Committee in 1992, the General Assembly's continued support for the implementation of its activities has led to strengthened and closer cooperation for peace and security between Central African countries. However, much remains to be done if conditions for lasting peace, disarmament and development are to be achieved. It is imperative that the international community continue to lend its political, financial, technical and material support to promoting peace, security, stability and development in the Central African region. For his part, the Secretary-General will continue to provide all the assistance he can.**

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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

During the reporting period, from July 2001 to June 2002, the Centre continued to implement activities in the African region in the four priority areas outlined in the programme of work that was endorsed in 1999 by the African Group of States at the United Nations: support for peace processes and peace initiatives in Africa; practical disarmament and arms control; information, research and publication; and advocacy and resource mobilization. Substantive activities in these areas have included provision of technical support to a number of Member States in the formulation and execution of weapons collection and destruction programmes and the organization of and participation in relevant seminars, conferences and workshops in the field of peace, disarmament and security, in Africa in particular.

The Centre's research activities were enhanced by the conclusion of the first year of the Fellowship Programme on Peace, Security and Disarmament in Africa, which brought together for six weeks, in Lomé, three fellows from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya and South Africa. In addition, work was concluded on the one-year study on illicit routes and caches of small arms and light weapons in Africa.

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The Centre promoted cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, and they jointly launched the process of harmonizing civil-military relations in Africa as an element of peace, stability and security in Africa. Cooperation was also strengthened with other subregional organizations, including the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of Central African States. Cooperation and partnership were also extended to relevant civil society organizations and research institutions.

The Centre continued to experience considerable financial difficulties, as the voluntary contributions of Member States and other institutions over the past several years have not reached the level that would enable the Centre to reach full operational capacity.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 56/25 D of 29 November 2001, by which the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-seventh session on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. The report covers the period from July 2001 to June 2002.

II. Functioning of the Centre

2. The Centre was established in 1986 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/151 G of 16 December 1985. Its headquarters are located in Lomé. The Centre functions within the framework of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, which ensures its supervision and acts as the focal point for coordinating the inputs of the pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system.

3. Since the appointment of the Director of the Centre by the Secretary-General on 1 December 1998, pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in resolution 52/220, the Centre has continued its vigorous efforts to implement a revitalization process. Notwithstanding these efforts, the Centre's capacity to deliver on its programme of work and to respond to the numerous and ever-increasing requests by Member States of the African region remains limited due to the acute insufficiency of human, material and financial resources.

4. The programme of work of the Centre, endorsed by the African Group of States at the United Nations on 1 February 1999, continued to be implemented in the following main areas: support for peace processes and peace initiatives in Africa; practical disarmament and arms control; information, research and publications; and advocacy and resource mobilization. The Director of the Centre kept the African Group apprised of the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the execution of this programme.

III. Objectives and activities of the Centre

5. The Centre continued to carry out its mandate, as contained in General Assembly resolution 40/151 G, according to which it will provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of Member States in the African region aimed at the realization of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and will coordinate the implementation of regional activities in Africa within the framework of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme.

6. During the period under review, the Centre, despite financial constraints, continued to contribute to efforts to promote wider understanding and cooperation among African States in the areas of peace, disarmament and security. It expanded its contacts and cooperation with other relevant United Nations bodies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations, and research and academic institutions.

7. Within the framework of the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, the Centre held a workshop on 30 and 31 July 2001 to develop a curriculum for the control of small arms. The workshop was funded by the Government of Switzerland and organized in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Government of Kenya and the Nairobi Secretariat — the structure set up by the 10 States parties to the Nairobi Declaration in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa. The curriculum adopted aims to train trainers from security, customs, police, military and paramilitary forces in the control of small arms and light weapons, as several Member States of the subregion have requested the Centre to assist them in improving the management, control, collection and destruction of surplus, unwanted, unauthorized, forfeited, surrendered or seized small arms and light weapons.

8. After serving from March 1999 to April 2001 as the operational framework for the implementation of the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED) — the secretariat structure set up by UNDP to coordinate the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa — the Centre participated, at the request of UNDP, in the discussions to determine a continued role for the Centre in the substantive and political implementation of PCASED. In this regard, the Centre developed a programme of work that would enable it to

share its experience in supporting the implementation of weapons collection and destruction programmes in West Africa, and in sustaining dialogue with arms manufacturers and suppliers in the successful implementation of the Moratorium.

9. The Director of the Centre participated in a conference organized by the Bonn International Centre for Conversion on the sidelines of the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and presented a paper on the theme "Transforming the ECOWAS Moratorium on light weapons into a peace operation for human security".

10. At the request of the Government of Guinea-Bissau, and in collaboration with the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau, the Centre conducted a fact-finding mission to Guinea-Bissau from 9 to 16 July 2001. The objective of the mission was to assess the proliferation of small arms in that country and to conceive a project document on the voluntary surrender of weapons illegally held by the civilian population. Funding was provided by the Government of the Netherlands through its Embassy in Senegal. If successful, the project will be expanded beyond the pilot zone to become a nationwide project aimed at collecting and destroying illegal weapons and facilitating the disarming of some 40,000 ex-combatants.

11. At the request of the Government of Kenya, from 28 July to 4 August 2001 the Centre, together with other United Nations agencies, provided substantive and technical support in the conduct of a fact-finding mission led by the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs. The objective of the mission was to determine the magnitude and scope of the small arms proliferation problem in Kenya. The mission collected information and data that could advance the understanding of the small arms problem in Kenya and resulted in suggestions on concrete measures to curb the proliferation of small arms and a proposal for the development of a pilot project on voluntary weapons surrender by the civilian population. The mission was carried out as the first in a series that could subsequently be undertaken in other interested countries of the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa. In the Nairobi Declaration, States had called on the United Nations to conduct an in-depth study of the plague of small arms in their subregions.

12. At the request of the Government of Togo, the Centre provided substantive and technical support in the elaboration of a national strategy for Togo that would ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The strategy was presented by the Togolese Government to members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of international organizations, researchers and journalists at a conference held at the Centre in Lomé on 28 August 2001.

13. The Centre also provided support to the Government of Togo in the establishment and launching in August 2001 of its National Commission for the Fight Against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Commission was established pursuant to a call for ECOWAS member States set up such structures within the framework of the Plan of Action adopted in March 1999 in Bamako for the implementation of the ECOWAS Moratorium.

14. The Centre provided substantive support to and participated in the meeting of experts on preventive action and conflict avoidance in West Africa, organized by the African Centre for Strategic Studies (Washington, D.C.). The workshop was held in Accra from 20 to 24 August 2001, and its participants included senior civilian officials, military officers, parliamentarians and representatives of civil society from the 15 ECOWAS countries.

15. In early July 2001, together with the UNDP country office in Zambia, the Centre began discussions on the Dag Hammarskjöld Messenger of Peace initiative with a view to consecrating a site eight miles from Ndola, Zambia, where Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld died in a plane crash and turning it into an annual peace pilgrimage site. This project was undertaken within the framework of a programme to advance a culture of peace through the training of Messengers of Peace in Zambia and in other countries in the region, and was financed by the Government of Sweden and other donors.

16. During the period under review, the Centre joined other United Nations agencies and departments on a multidisciplinary mission to the Gambia, from 10 to 14 September 2001. The objective of the mission was to develop an implementation strategy and deadlines for

an integrated preventive strategy that should help the Gambia to avoid violent conflict, while consolidating peace, security and stability.

17. At the request of the UNDP country office in Chad and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Centre formulated the terms of reference and strategies for assessing ways of improving the control and use of small arms and light weapons in Chad.

18. The Centre organized a high-level seminar on the theme "Promotion of civil-military relations: a factor for peace and security in Africa" in Lomé from 29 to 31 October 2001. With the financial support of France, Gabon, Germany, the United States of America, the African Centre for Strategic Studies and the National Democratic Institute of International Affairs, the seminar considered and adopted elements and a general framework for drafting a code of conduct for armed and security forces in Africa.

19. On 31 October 2001, the Centre provided technical and substantive support to the Government of Togo in the organization of the ceremonial destruction in the capital, Lomé, of several hundred surplus and unwanted weapons collected as part of the country's efforts to improve human security and stem gun-running, violent crime and small arms proliferation. The Flame of Peace ceremony also marked the official launching of the activities of Togo's newly established National Commission for the Fight Against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

20. The Centre participated in a follow-up meeting to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, organized by the Government of Japan and held in Tokyo from 23 to 25 January 2002. At that meeting the Centre participated in the work of a committee that identified a strategy for the effective implementation, within the African region, of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

21. At the request of the Government of Togo, in January 2002 the Centre started preparing a training curriculum for senior officials of the Togolese armed forces to promote disarmament, force reduction, improved weapons stockpile management, and small arms and light weapons control, collection and destruction. The training envisaged in Togo would be attended by 25 senior military officials based in Lomé and 21 student officers from military training facilities across the country.

22. The Centre provided substantive and technical support for the organization of an international conference on the armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo and on the theme "Building sustainable peace in the Great Lakes region". The Centre contributed a resource paper to the conference on the theme "Root causes, actors, impact and perspectives of conflicts: some proposals for peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region". The conference was held in Sun City, South Africa, from 21 to 23 February 2002 and was jointly organized by the African Institute of South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo Women's Action for Peace.

23. The Centre participated in an international conference held in Pretoria from 18 to 21 March 2002 on the theme "Implementing the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects: partnerships and opportunities". The Centre presented a resource paper at the conference on the theme "Reducing availability and demand: arms collection and destruction".

24. At the request of the Government of the Niger, the Centre undertook a mission to that country from 3 to 16 March 2002, with the objective of supporting the United Nations Volunteers in advancing the effective implementation of the "Consolidation of peace" project in the Diffa region of the country. In accordance with the April 1995 peace accord, the Government of the Niger had planned the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of the Tuareg ex-combatants.

25. From 24 March to 5 April 2002, the Director of the Centre led a joint mission of the United Nations and the Hague Appeal for Peace to the Niger to gather information and data so as to facilitate work on the formulation of a project entitled "Developing peace and disarmament — education initiatives to disarm children and youth". Conceived as the "software" of disarmament through the minds of the people, this project is intended to accompany a Department for Disarmament Affairs/UNDP pilot project, in the N'Guigmi region of the Niger, in which arms are to be collected in exchange for small development projects. The former project is to be funded by the Turner Foundation and other donors and would be implemented in Lima, Peru; Gramsch, Albania; and Cambodia.

26. The Centre participated in a conference in Accra from 26 to 27 March 2002, aimed at finding ways and means of promoting African participation in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations standardized instrument for reporting of military expenditures. The conference was attended by Government representatives and experts from the 15 ECOWAS member States. Participants in the conference commended the initiative and urged the Centre to play a greater role in soliciting the participation of Governments in the African region and to be more actively involved in the organization of future meetings on the subject in other subregions of the continent.

27. In cooperation with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the Centre held consultations, in Lomé from 25 to 29 March 2002, on developing possible areas of cooperation and collaboration between the two institutions. The Provisional Technical Secretariat suggested that the Centre should assume a leading role in sensitizing African Governments, beginning with those in the West African subregion, with a view to their signing and ratifying the Treaty.

28. As a follow-up to the October 2001 workshop on civil-military relations, the Centre convened an international workshop in Lomé from 27 to 29 May 2002. The workshop brought together government experts from some 20 African countries, as well as arms control and peace activists from academia, research institutes and civil society organizations, to validate a draft code of conduct for armed and security forces in Africa. It was organized in collaboration with the Government of Togo, with funding from the OAU/African Union, the African Centre for Strategic Studies and the Embassies of France and the United States of America in Togo.

29. From 15 to 30 November 2001, the Centre conducted in Nairobi a training course for trainers on the techniques of control and reduction of small arms and light weapons, in collaboration with UNDP and with funding from the Government of Switzerland. The course was attended by more than 30 senior officials from the police, customs, security, military, paramilitary and other law enforcement agencies of 8 of the 10 countries of the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa. The training course was the first in a series that the Centre is providing to States parties to the March 2000 Nairobi Declaration on illicit trafficking in small arms.

30. The Centre contributed to and participated in, from 29 April to 2 May 2002 in Dakar, a consultation of civil society organizations from West Africa seeking to develop a training manual on small arms. Co-organized by Saferworld, International Alert and Oxfam Great Britain, the consultation was a direct follow-up to the Africa-wide civil society consultation organized by the Centre in December 2000 in Lomé. As a follow-up, the Centre, with the support of Oxfam Great Britain, would finalize training modules for a pilot training course in this domain for members of the West Africa Action Network on Small Arms, which was created in Accra on 21 May 2002.

31. The Centre made presentations at the PCASED/Department of Economic and Social Affairs subregional workshop in Conakry on 3 and 4 June 2002, on ways of strengthening the capacity of national commissions for the fight against the proliferation of small arms to assist their respective Governments in ensuring the effective implementation of the West African Moratorium.

32. At the request of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Centre undertook a fact-finding mission to the country, from 3 to 9 June 2002, to explore the possibility of conducting an extensive mine-awareness campaign. The mission was financed by the Government of Belgium.

A. Seminars, conferences and consciousness-raising

33. In celebration of Disarmament Week (24-30 October 2001), the first day of which coincided with the fifteenth anniversary of the inauguration of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the Centre organized a series of activities. These included a mega music concert, broadcast live on local television, on the theme "Combating small arms and light weapons proliferation in Africa". Nineteen Togolese songwriters, singers and artistic groups participated in support of peace, security and disarmament in Africa. Following the concert, the Centre launched work on the production of a compact disk and video clip on the theme "Peace, security and disarmament in Africa", featuring the song "Disarm Africa", written by the Centre and by Togolese artist Dama Damawuzan.

34. As part of its advocacy and outreach programme, the Centre continued to hold its monthly briefing on disarmament, peace and security issues in Africa,

within the framework of the Disarmament Forum, which is inaugurated in January 2001 and has held ever since on the last Tuesday of every month. The Forum is open to the diplomatic corps, civil society organizations active in disarmament issues, research institutions and universities, and provides an opportunity for various actors to suggest practical solutions to the numerous security-related problems with which the continent is confronted.

35. Among the 10 topics discussed at the Forum during the period under review were the following: "Identity conflicts in Africa: from specific cases to the generalization of the phenomenon" (July 2001); "The Togolese strategy for implementing the programme of action adopted by the 2001 United Nations Conference on Small Arms" (August 2001); "The role of the military in democratic transitions in Africa" (September 2001); "African conflicts: in search of a better understanding of the failure of traditional solutions" (October 2001); "The ability of African States to ensure security and defence: the emergence of non-State actors" (December 2001); "The intangibility of borders inherited from colonization: an obstacle to peace? The case of the Sudan and Somalia" (January 2002); "Terrorism and the proliferation of small arms." (February 2002); and "Regional integration: a means for promoting peace in Africa" (March 2002).

B. Joint projects, cooperation and partnerships

36. The Centre continued to build partnerships with other organizations working on similar issues in Africa, including the OAU/African Union, the African Centre for Strategic Studies (Washington, D.C.), the National Democratic Institute (United States of America), the Institute of Strategic Studies (South Africa) and the African Leadership Forum (Nigeria). Potential areas of collaboration explored in the period under review or being considered by the Centre include exchange of staff, joint publications and joint fund mobilization, particularly for joint research programmes.

37. The Centre consolidated three partnership agreements during the reporting period: with the Government of Belgium on the Associate Expert Programme, with the Youth International Internship Programme of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Canadian Government, and with the Government of Germany on a fellowship programme. All costs related to the three programmes were covered by the partners.

38. The Centre continued to provide substantive and technical support for the work of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. In particular, the Centre provided logistic support for the Standing Advisory Committee's meeting, from 2 to 5 July 2001 in Libreville, to review the statute of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa. The Centre also participated, from 14 to 16 November 2001 in Kinshasa, in a conference on the protection of women and children in armed conflict, organized by the Standing Advisory Committee, where it presented a resource paper on the theme "Analysis of recent armed conflicts in the Central African region and their impact on women and children".

39. During the period under review, the Centre continued to develop and consolidate collaboration and cooperation on research projects with several institutions based in Africa, Europe and the Americas. The institutions contacted include the Institut français des relations internationales (Paris); the Centre d'étude d'Afrique noire (Bordeaux); the Group for Security Information Research (Belgium); the Centre for Democratic Empowerment (Liberia); the Campaign for Good Governance (Sierra Leone); International Alert (United Kingdom); BASIC (United Kingdom); the Centre for Democracy and Development (United Kingdom); the African Leadership Forum (Nigeria); and the African Strategic Peace Research Group (Nigeria).

40. The Centre also held discussions with the Geneva Centre for the Democratization of Armed Forces on practical ways of cooperating in strengthening civil-military relations in the promotion of durable peace and security in Africa.

C. Research, information and publications

41. The Centre completed the first year of its Fellowship Programme on Peace, Security and Disarmament in Africa, which it had inaugurated in May 2001, with the financial support of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. The research papers of the fellows were published. Work on the second year of the Fellowship Programme had begun at the time of preparing the present report.

42. Each year, the Fellowship Programme permits three research fellows to conduct research at the Centre for a period of three months on topics of their choice in

the field of peace, security and disarmament in the African region. Fellows, who should be predominantly post-graduate students, are selected by an international committee set up for that purpose and involving the following organizations and institutions: OAU, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the International Relations Institute of Cameroon, the *Southern African Political and Economic Monthly*, the Centre d'étude d'Afrique noire, the Bonn International Centre for Conversion, the University of Benin, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Togo and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa.

43. Together with UNDP, the Centre finalized a bilingual (English and French) version of a manual and curriculum for training trainers in the control of small arms and light weapons. The manual has been developed within the framework of the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa.

44. During the period under review, the Centre renovated its reference library and updated its collection on issues related to peace, security and disarmament. The library is now open to researchers and other users. A compendium of the books available in the library has been published. This compendium, to be updated periodically, is available via the Centre's Internet web site to readers and researchers using the reference library. A second, updated edition of the compendium was made available in May 2002.

45. In the period under review, the Centre published a number of occasional papers and/or publications, including the following: "Promoting civil-military relations in Africa: a bilingual (English and French) seminar report" (February 2002); "Final report on the 2001 edition of the Fellowship Programme on Peace, Disarmament and Security in Africa" (March 2002); "Final bilingual report (English and French) on the project on routes and caches of weapons in Africa" (April 2002); "Report on children caught in armed conflict in Africa" (February 2002); "Report on conflict trends in Africa" (February 2002); "Arms collection and destruction" (March 2002); and "Security and environmental, or green, conflicts" (May 2002).

46. Due to financial constraints and other technical problems, the Centre published only one of the four editions of its quarterly bilingual newsletter, *African Peace Bulletin*, which focuses on relevant developments in the field of peace, security and disarmament and related issues, mainly on the African continent. The Centre's advocacy and outreach programme concentrated on the organization of several outdoor events, including a mega music concert, the monthly Disarmament Forum and radio and television programmes. The Centre also maintained contact and visibility via its Internet web site (www.unrec.org) which is being regularly updated.

47. The Centre undertook a research study on arms embargoes and sanctions in Africa from 1960 to date, with the financial support of the Government of France. The objective of the study is to review the effectiveness of arms embargoes and sanctions by underlining areas of weakness and strength that may have promoted or negatively affected the prospects for a durable peace and security on the continent. The study will be published for wide distribution within and outside Africa.

D. Working with civil society to advance peace and disarmament initiatives

48. The Centre provided assistance and technical support for the launching of a civil society network campaigning for arms control and reduction in the West African subregion, known as the West Africa Action Network on Small Arms.

49. The Centre provided substantive support for the organization of a consultation of West African civil society organizations, 2 held in Dakar from 29 April to 1 May 2002. Other organizers included Oxfam Great Britain and International Alert (United Kingdom). The key objective of the consultation was to formulate a training curriculum for West African civil society organizations.

E. Planned activities of the Centre

50. Appearing in annex II is a list of the Centre's planned activities for which interested donor countries and organizations are invited to provide funding.

IV. Staffing, financing and administration

51. During the reporting period, persistent financial problems prevented the Centre from operating at full

scale to implement its work programme. Its functioning continued to be hampered by a lack of resources to cover operational costs. The Centre therefore continued to operate with a skeleton local staff at the General Service level at a time when requests for assistance from Member States have been increasing.

52. The Centre benefited from the 2001-2002 Youth International Internship Programme of the Government of Canada, which provided the Centre with two interns for a period of six months, from September 2001 to February 2002. Selected by Project Ploughshares, a Canadian non-governmental organization specializing in the promotion of disarmament, demilitarization and the peaceful resolution of political conflict, the interns assisted the Centre in its Protecting Children Caught in Armed Conflicts in Africa programme and Practical Disarmament Measures in Africa programme.

53. During the period under review the Centre also continued to benefit for the second year, from the services and expertise of an associate expert funded by the Government of Belgium to work on the Centre's peace programmes.

54. The Director has continued to pursue intensive fund-raising activities, undertaking a series of visits and maintaining contacts with a number of Member States, including Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, France, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa and Switzerland, and institutions. During the period under review, voluntary contributions in the amount of $127,097 were received.

55. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Belgium, France and Norway and OAU for their generous support, and to the Government of Togo, the host country, for its overall support of the Centre. The status of the Trust Fund for the Centre for the biennium 2000-2001 appears in annex I to the present report.

V. Conclusions and observations

56. **During the reporting period, the Centre has continued to assume a leading role in the promotion of peace, security and disarmament in Africa. It has received an increasing number of requests from Member States, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations for assistance and support. In the discharge of its mandate, the Centre has built solid working relations with OAU and initiated partnership programmes with a number of institutions and civil society organizations within and outside Africa.**

57. **Despite its intensive fund-raising efforts, the Centre has continued to experience serious financial difficulties, which have impaired its ability to realize its full potential and to fulfil its mandate. The Secretary-General therefore counts on the continued and increasing support and cooperation of Member States and organizations to ensure the Centre's effective functioning.**

Annex I

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for the biennium 2000-2001

	United States dollars
Fund balance, 31 December 1999	51 017
Income, 1 January 2000-31 December 2001	
Voluntary contributions*	358 610
Interest income	23 160
Miscellaneous income	22 546
Subtotal	**404 316**
Expenditures	
1 January 2000-31 December 2001	361 867
Prior period adjustments	8 886
Subtotal	**370 753**
Fund balance, 31 December 2001	**84 580**

Note: This information is based on the financial statement for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2001. During the period from 1 January to 30 June 2002, additional contributions totalling $88,173 were received from Belgium ($10,667), France ($67,506) and the Organization of African Unity ($10,000).

* In 2000, from Algeria ($5,000), Canada ($6,755), France ($66,325), Germany ($21,749), Mauritius ($5,000), Switzerland ($56,500) and the Norwegian Red Cross ($79,978); in 2001, from China ($10,000), France ($68,337) and Norway ($38,924).

Annex II

Planned activities of the Centre for which funding is sought

Project I

Title of project	Promotion of civil-military relations in Africa: a factor for peace and security.
Purpose	Consolidation of the role of the military in the democratic process; Adoption of a continent-wide code of conduct for armed forces and security forces in Africa; Promotion of durable peace and security through harmonious civilian-military relationships.
Location	Project conceptualization and design: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, Lomé Project implementation: several African States.
Duration	2 years
Number of participants	Two participants from each of the 50 African countries members of the Organization of African Unity/African Union.

Cost estimates
(United States dollars)

Project staff (three staff, two years)	223 600
Travel and conference costs (5 days, 100 participants)	223 250
National project implementation in 10 pilot countries	45 000
Project operating costs	36 000
Publication and distribution of the code of conduct	21 750
Total	**549 600**

Project II

Title of project	Capacity-building in small arms control for security and other law enforcement officials in the southern African subregion, member States of the southern African Development Community.
Purpose	To strengthen the capacities of law enforcement and other security officials in the southern African subregion by providing them with modern techniques and tools for small arms control.

Location	The first phase will be a curriculum formulation meeting in Lomé, headquarters of the Regional Centre; The second phase will be a training-of-trainers workshop in Windhoek.
Duration	Six months
Number of participants	55 from the subregion; 12 resource persons; 1 Project Coordinator

Cost estimates
(United States dollars)

Curriculum formulation workshop (three days, 12 experts), bringing together 12 experts from the subregion to reflect on and adopt elements compiled by the Regional Centre for a training curriculum	22 520
Project Coordinator for the training-of-trainers programme (five months)	8 000
Training-of-trainers workshop (two weeks, 50 participants, 12 trainers)	215 550
Total	**246 070**

Project III

Title of Project	Capacity-building of focal points in the framework of the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa.
Partnership	The Nairobi Secretariat and relevant non-governmental organizations active in the field.
Purpose	Strengthening, and helping to establish, where they do not yet exist, the focal point institutions charged with the responsibility of implementing the Nairobi Declaration at the national level in the signatory States.
Location	Project conceptualization and design: Lomé; Project implementation: the 10 countries signatories to the Nairobi Declaration (Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda).
Duration	Ten weeks.
Number of participants	Ten participants from the 10 States signatory to the Nairobi Declaration

Cost estimates

(United States dollars)

Project design and operation (includes one Project Coordinator, four months)	9 900
Publication of teaching manuals	15 750
National workshops (includes travel of two resource persons, Project Coordinator and two staff members, and conference and operating costs)	77 000
Total	**102 650**